

**R E M A R K S**

Careful review and examination of the subject application are noted and appreciated.

**SUPPORT FOR CLAIM AMENDMENTS**

Support for the amendments to the claims can be found in the drawings as originally filed, for example, on FIG. 3 and in the specification as originally filed, for example, on page 6, line 8 through page 7, line 10, on page 7, line 16 through page 9, line 11. As such, no new matter has been introduced.

**CLAIM REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. §103**

The rejection of claims 1-8 and 10-13 under 35 U.S.C. §103 as being unpatentable over McCoskey et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,460,108; hereinafter McCoskey) in view of Zulian et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,314,484; hereinafter Zulian) has been obviated by appropriate amendment and should be withdrawn.

The rejection of claim 9 under 35 U.S.C. §103 as being unpatentable over McCoskey in view of Zulian and further in view of Riley et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,816,934; hereinafter Riley) has been obviated by appropriate amendment and should be withdrawn.

In contrast to the cited references, the presently claimed invention (claim 1) provides (i) a first bus segment configured to present a first bus busy signal, (ii) a second bus

segment configured to present a second bus busy signal, (iii) a first switch portion configured to receive said first bus busy signal and to transfer data received from the second bus segment to the first bus segment when the first bus busy signal indicates the first bus segment has no traffic and (iv) a second switch portion configured to receive the second bus busy signal and to transfer data received from the first bus segment to the second bus segment when the second bus busy signal indicates the second bus segment has no traffic. Claims 12 and 13 include similar limitations. McCoskey, Zulian and Riley, alone or in combination, do not appear to teach or suggest a first bus segment configured to present a first bus busy signal, a second bus segment configured to present a second bus busy signal, a first switch portion configured to receive the first bus busy signal and to transfer data received from the second bus segment to the first bus segment when the first bus busy signal indicates the first bus segment has no traffic and (iv) a second switch portion configured to receive the second bus busy signal and to transfer data received from the first bus segment to the second bus segment when the second bus busy signal indicates the second bus segment has no traffic, as presently claimed. Therefore, the cited references do not teach or suggest each and every element of the presently claimed invention. As such, the presently claimed invention is fully patentable over the cited references and the rejection should be withdrawn.

Claims 2-11 depend, directly or indirectly, from claim 1 which is believed to be allowable. As such, the presently claimed invention is fully patentable over the cited references and the rejections should be withdrawn.

New claims 14-20 depend, directly or indirectly, from claim 13 which is believed to be allowable. As such, the presently claimed invention is fully patentable over the cited references.

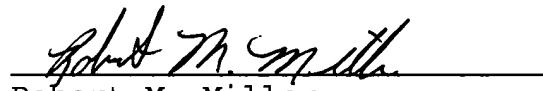
Accordingly, the present application is in condition for allowance. Early and favorable action by the Examiner is respectfully solicited.

The Examiner is respectfully invited to call the Applicant's representative at 586-498-0670 should it be deemed beneficial to further advance prosecution of the application.

If any additional fees are due, please charge Deposit  
Account No. 12-2252.

Respectfully submitted,

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